



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of) Examiner: S. Chunduru
Roland Carlsson et al.) Art Unit: 1637
Serial No. 09/734,801)
Filed: December 12, 2000)
For: "A Method for in Vitro)
Molecular Evolution of)
Protein Function")

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

The January 27, 2004 Official Action has been carefully reviewed. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

At the outset it is noted that a shortened statutory response period of three (3) months was set forth in the January 27, 2004 Official Action. Therefore, the initial due date for response was March 27, 2004. A petition for a two month extension of the response period is presented with this response, which is being filed within the two month extension period.

Applicants note with pleasure that the Examiner has withdrawn the rejections set forth in the September 24, 2003 Official Action.

At page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. (Gene (2000) 243:133-137) in view of U.S. Patent 6,413,774.

The foregoing rejection constitute all of the grounds set forth in the January 27, 2004 Official Action for refusing the present application.